



Drayton Hall Elementary
School

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For Immediate Release

March 5, 2025

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Media Release

Music therapy one of many educational tools at Drayton Hall

Charleston, SC - Drayton Hall Elementary School students in Taylor Merritt's preschool intervention (PIC) class are enjoying music therapy with Wimberly Giardina from Palmetto Music Therapy Services, LLC. The students love singing, strumming the guitar, and keeping a steady beat on a variety of percussive instruments every Friday thanks to the generosity of the school's PTA who have funded the effort.

PIC classes help young children with developmental delays and disabilities develop skills for school and life; services include speech therapy, physical therapy, and other types of support. Merritt and her colleagues in the PIC program are responsible for developing and implementing Individualized Educational Plans for each child in their care, which may include goals related to language, motor, cognitive, and social-emotional development. Music therapy benefits all of their students. In fact, the program also works with students in the Low Incidence (LI) class at Drayton Hall. Many of the students from Merritt's class feed into that class.

Merritt's students enjoy a small group environment where they are learning curriculum in a one on one setting. The music therapy is a welcomed additional support, she said.

"The sessions have been hands-on learning experiences where my students can express themselves - especially my nonverbal students," said Taylor. "We are thankful to the PTA. The Pre-K intervention community here at Drayton Hall appreciates the generous donations. Our kids are soaking up the experience and improving their skills inside and outside the classroom."

Giardina's music therapy sessions present interactive and engaging musical methods that are geared toward each student's personality and abilities. She is anticipating a concert at the end of the year in May.

For more information, contact Principal Brian Agnew at (843) 852-0678.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.